Top Secret Attachment

CA

350.4

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

FE - Mr. Parelman, Mr. Allison

August 29, 1952

CA - Walter P. McConaughy

Escapee Program: FY 1954 Budget

Reference: Memorandum of August 19, 1952, from UNA/R

As indicated by the UNA/R study of August 19 the United States has long been associated with a policy of extending assistance to political refugees. The traditional U. S. sympathy for, and assistance to, the politically oppressed and homeless has been well grounded in popular American sentiment, expressed materially in generous terms. With the rise of the dictatorships in the 1930's, closely followed by the population displacements of World War II, the traditional U. S. impulse to extend assistance for primarily humanitarian reasons was paralleled by a growing realization that selective assistance to certain political refugees is clearly in the U. S. national interest.

CA believes it most unfortunate that, to date, little official interest has been taken in escapees from areas of Asia subject to Communist control. Not only has a considerable intelligence potential gone largely untapped, but also that confidence in the free world which the U. S. has sought, through many expensive programs, to encourage, has been materially weakened in the minds of many Asians. Lack of U. S. official interest, reflected in the small scope of private philanthropic activities in Asia, has served to make many Asians susceptible to the Communist propaganda allegation that the U. S., a "western, white" nation, regards Asians as second-class world citizens by comparison with Europeans.

Among the U. S. objectives in the Far East area is the encouragement of friction between the USSR and Communist China. There are many ethnic groups in central Asia which resist political controls stemming from either Moscow or Peking. Representatives of these groups have fled into India, the Kashmir, Turkey and other countries in the Near East or South Asia. Likewise, dissident elements from Sinkiang and elsewhere in China have escaped from Communist control and sought U. S. help; more will follow. It is paradoxical that there is no overall program provision for the very persons who come from the primary target area; exchange scholarships, economic assistance and military aid are administratively channeled through "country programs". For obvious reasons, there is no "country program" for the persons who most need help.

In realistic terms, a "hand-out" or local charity program for Asian escapees would lead to staggering financial outlays and, in the long run, probably would accomplish little in the political sense. However, an official expression of U. S. interest in Asian escapees, accompanied by legislative authorization for a limited program, undoubtedly would be

materially

materially abetted by a consequent expansion of private philanthropic activities. In this connection, CA suggests that the present language of the "escapee" provisions of Section 101 (a)(1), Mutual Security Act of 1951 is inappropriate for Asia by virtue of its providing for the forming of escapees "into elements of the military forces supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization". In recognition of the known attitudes of the various Asian governments, CA suggests that the expenditure of limited funds in Asia be approved whenever it is determined by the President that such expenditure is in the national interest of the U. S.

Specifically, CA would support the following line of action:

1. That the R area be requested to prepare a brief summary of factual information, now available, pertaining to the escapee problem in Asia;

2. That FE approve in principle the extension of the escapee program to Asia;

3. That, pending compilation and study of the available data, FE withhold judgment on the UMA/R proposal that the sum of $3,000,000 be allocated to the program for Asia for 1954.

4. That the program for Asia be tailored specifically to meet Asian conditions, leaving to private philanthropic organizations (encouraged by U. S. Government) the major share of local relief and retaining for official action the exploitation of escapees for intelligence and for resistance purposes.

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Attachment to CA Memorandum of August 29, 1952

RE Escapees

(For Mr. Allison only)

January 1952 FE cleared through G a communication addressed to DCI, setting forth the interest of the Department in CIA's program for Asian escapees and encouraging an acceleration of that program. More recently, CA submitted to FE a proposal that the rapidly growing importance of central Asia justifies the establishment of a focal point within the Department to coordinate field activities and to improve the coordination of various sensitive operations involving ethnic groups in that area. CA believes that the overt extension of an escapee program to Asia would materially assist in providing cover for selected operations (e.g. Tibet) and would strengthen intelligence acquisition efforts.

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